CERTAYNE NEWES OF THE *whole diſcription, ayde,* and helpe of the Chriſtian Princes and Nobles, the vvhich for the comfort and deliueraunce of the poore Chriſtians in the low Countries, are gathered together, and are novve vvith their armies in the fielde.

Drawen and Copied out of a letter, ſent vnto vs out of the ſame Campe.

¶ Apocal. 18. ver. 5.

For her ſinnes are gone vp to heauen, and God hath remembred her vvickedneſſe.
Revvard her euen as ſhe revvarded you, and geue her double according to her vvorkes.
And poure in double to her, in the ſame Cup vvhich ſhe filled vnto you.

¶ Printed at Dordrecht. 1574.

¶ Tranſlated out of Dutche into English, the. 12. of April.

BEloued Reader, wée finde in the olde and auncient Hiſtories & Monuments, and that amongſt all other wiſe Monarchies & kings, wæ reade howe the great and mightie Caugniſta, king of Egypt, when he ſawe that he ſhould dye, he called vnto him his ſeuen ſonnes, and hauing a Quiuer of Arrowes bound in a bundel, commaunded them one after another to breake them in pæces, the which when it was not poſſible for them to do, he cauſed the bundel to be vnlooſed, and cauſed them to be ſcattered one from the other, cõmaunding eche of them to breake one of them, which then was very eaſie to be done: he wyllyng to teache his ſeuen ſonnes by this example, that if ſo be they were deuided in the kingdome, & kept not them ſelues within the bondes of vnitie and concorde, that then they eaſily ſhoulde be conſumed, broken in pæces, and thruſt out of their Empire. In like maner we reade of the olde Granduellis, howe hæ left this for a Teſtament in his laſt wil, vnto

vnto that mightie Emperor Charles the fift, that if so be his Maiestie woulde prosper in the Romaine Empyre according to his wyll, that then he shoulde endeuour him selfe to the vttermost of his power, to raise all hatred and discorde to be betwæne the elected Princes, and the other Princes of the Empire, that in the meane time, while they were at strife, and warred one with the other, then the Eagle might eate and deuour them all: this subtile practise hath that Antechrist of Rome, this seuen yeres here in these lowe Countries, and about ten or twelue yeres in Fraunce, not without greate blodshedde and vtter ruine of both these Countries practised: And except that the Almightie God with his strong arme had turned them from vs, that hellishe Dragon, with the water that procædeth out of his mouth, woulde haue drowned and deuoured vs vp: And that this was their practise, we may perceiue, for if they had once ouercome Fraunce, and these lowe Countries, they woulde procæde further, against all the Princes and Nobles vn-

der the Empyre, which haue and doe confesse the Gospell, spoyling them of all dominion and libertie, yea, and of their liues also, as it may manifestlye appeare by the bloody execution of that tyrannish Counsell of Trent, and the Spanish Inquisition, which spareth neither Dukes, Earles, nor Lordes, of what state soeuer they be, but against all promise, fayth, and fidelitie, like most wicked periurers, haue most pitiously murdered, beheaded, and taken their liues from them.

By the which, through the illumination of God, there are moued the chiefest Protestant Princes of the Romane Empyre, who foreseeing what might come to passe, haue thought that if they shoulde nowe holde their peace and be styll, and not assist their fellowe members of the faith, in the time of their neede, that then so sone as the tyraunt had quenched his yre in Fraunce, and in these lowe Countries, with sheadding of Christian blod, and murdering all Magistrates and subiectes, vnto the which he aspireth, that then hee woulde also proceede against them,

them, and not put vp his bloody swoorde into the Scabberde, tyll that he had rooted out of all landes, all those that denie the Pope, and acknowledge Christ onely to be the head of the Church.

And albeit that the godlye and Christian Magistrates knowe of a suretie, that Almightie GOD, with his mightie hande, can deliuer his Church, without the assistaunce of any man, neuertheless we may finde in holy writyng, that God by his appoynted Magistrates, hath alwayes defended the same, and specially, howe the father of all the faithfull, our father Abraham, when hée heard that his brother Lot, and all his goodes and household were taken and caryed away captiue, hée arose vp with all his power and pursued the enemyes and slewe them, & deliuered those that were taken with all theyr goodes, and restored to euery man his owne, so that if all examples that could bée shewed should here bée brought in, it would bée tedious for the Christian Reader: but this must wée wel note and vnderstande, that God hath giuen the

swoord

ſwoꝛde into the Magiſtrates hand to defend the good and innocent, and to puniſh the wicked and vngodlye, Yea, that moſt vnchꝛiſtian Emperour Traianus, when hée oꝛdained any Pꝛctoꝛ, and gaue to him the ſwoꝛd of iuſtice, would ſay thus vnto him, Vſe thy ſwoꝛde againſt mine enemies, in iuſt cauſes, and if I my ſelfe do otherwiſe then iuſtice, vſe thy power vpon mée alſo.

Let vs then Chꝛiſtian Reader, geue thanks vnto the almighty God, who hath raiſed vp theſe godlye Pꝛinces and Magiſtrates, to be meanes foꝛ to deliuer his poꝛe afflicted people, the which foꝛ theyꝛ ſinnes, haue this while béene woꝛthelye puniſhed.

And therefoꝛe are we bound to pꝛay to God from the bottom of our hearts, that hée wyll gouerne with his holye Spirite theſe Pꝛinces and Nobles, whiche are gathered nowe togeather foꝛ our ayde and comfoꝛt, that they maye in all theyꝛ enterpꝛiſes, ſéeke nothing elles but the gloꝛye of God, the honour of his holye name, and the commodity of al Chꝛiſten-

dome, and that the Deuilliſhe, Popiſhe, and Antechriſtian kingdome may bée rooted out and vtterly deſtroyed.
Amen.

The diſcription of the

Princes and Nobles which are nowe gathered togeather, and haue to their aduantage the Citie of Maſeike: where as it is nowe very cõmodious for them to paſſe ouer the Maſe by Shippe into Brabant.

AND therefore Chriſtian Reader, that thou mayeſt prayſe the great and marualous goodnes of God, who as hée hath the hearts of all Princes and gouernours in his hande, and hath not onely moued them to ayde and aſſyſt vs, but alſo hath made them willing to turne that great tyranny backe from vs, which truly the Pope by his enterpriſes would haue

haue brought on vs, and all other Godly Christians, in what Lande or dominion soeuer they were: wee haue therefore for your comfortes, caused theyr names, and Armies with theyr preparations of Rutters and other Souldiers, here vnder to bee written, that ye thereby Christian Reader might haue better entelligence thereof as followeth:

Duke Magnus, brother vnto the mightye and Renowmed King of Denmarke, a Noble man, and verye expeart in the Warres, hee amongest all other is chosen chiefe Generall of the fielde, and ouer all the rest of the other, wyse Marshall Princes and Nobles, and hee hath vnder his owne gouernment. 2500. Horse, and 4000. Gunners.

Duke Hans Cazimirus, and Philip Land grane of Hessen, they haue bothe 1500. Horse, and. 10. Enlignes of Souldiours.

Duke Christopher, Sonne vnto the

 Palsgraue,

Palſgraue, hath. 2500. Horſe, and. 4000. Gunners.

Graue Lodwicke, Graue Iohn, Graue Hendrik of Naſſow, Brethren vnto the renowmed Prince of Orrange, they haue betwæne them. 4000. Horſe, and. 8000. Gunners.

Item Graue Lodwick hath beſide theſe 900. Light horſemen, and. 2000. Gunners, which ſhote with Corriers.

Alſo there is the renowmed and Elected Prince, Duke Auguſtus, although not in his owne perſon, yet with his fauourable aide, he is with the aforenamed Armye. And vnto theſe alſo are ioyned the Duke of Saxon, and the Duke of VVymeren, for that as yet they are vnmuſtered, we can adde no certaine number.

¶ The

The other Armie.

Beſydes theſe, Iulius Duke of Bruynſwick, a very Ritche and mightye Lorde, pitying the ſtate of the poore Chriſtians, and being one that hath a true loue vnto the Goſpell of Jeſu Chriſt, and a verye enemye vnto the Anterchriſt of Rome, hath ioyned him ſelfe, and geuen his conſent to this great preparatyon of theſe Warres, and hath appointed the expert and couragious, Graue of Svvartzenborch, to bee generall ouer his Armye, which doe gather them ſelues togeather in fielde betweene Paterborne, and Soeſt in VVeſtphalen, and hath vnder his gouernment theſe that follow:

Manderſloe hath vnder his band. 4000 Ruitters, and two bandes of Souldiours, and there followeth vnto theſe Armies daylye, many Barrons, Squyers, and Gentlemen, with other credible Marchauntes and Citizens, the wich being

moued with a Godly zeale, dw not herein ſæke anye of theyr owne profite or gaine, but rather the glorye of God, and the commoditye of the whole lande and Prouinces, & that the conſciences of the poore captiues that are in Babilon, vnder the handes of that mighty Hunter Nemrod, which is the Pope of Rome, might bæ deliuered.

¶ The Concluſion.

For as much beloued Reader, that the almighty God hath ſo mercifully appeared vnto vs, and hath offered this his preſent benefites & helpe, Let vs not make ſmall account thereof, or lightlye regard it, but rather let vs with a Godly life and conuerſation, in prayer and thankes geuing, attend and wayte on the good wyll & pleaſure of God, not murmuring and ſaying, that the maintenance of ſo many Ruitters and ſouldiours doth impouerish, and bring the whole countrey into great miſerye, for this wæ may aſſure our ſelues, and therein take comfort, if ſo bæ

the

the Tyrant shoulde get the vpperhande, they wil not bee content with our Cities, Landes, goodes, and possessions, but they would force our Wiues, ravishe and defile our Daughters, kyll our young men, murther our olde men and women, and with penurye and hunger, famishe our Children and sucking Infantes, and so bring vs into such an euerlasting thraldome and bondage, that wee should haue wished rather to haue died, if it were possible a thousand times, then to lyue any longer in such a myserable captiuitye & misery. Therfore most deare christians, let vs thinke, although wee are hindered a yere or two, of our goodes & occupying, for to withstand the enemye, wee know and hope notwithstanding, that God by such meanes wyll giue vnto vs his holy word and Gospell, which is not to bee bought for any worldly goodes or treasure: and for as muche as wee hope, that once within these fewe dayes, God wyll driue the Tyraunt away from vs, and blesse vs with all maner of blessinges, wee lyuing godly and in his feare, our countrey

shall

shall prosper in all godlinesse and other kynde of occupying, the which God graunt vnto vs for his sonne Christes sake.
Amen.

FINIS.